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09/933,493	08/20/2001	Stefan M. van den Oord	MOBJ-01000US0	6164
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FLIESLER MEYER LLP 650 CALIFORNIA STREET 14TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108			EXAMINER BURGESS, BARBARA N	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/933,493

Applicant(s)

VAN DEN OORD ET AL.

Examiner

BARBARA N. BURGESS

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 17, 24-27 and 29-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 17, 24-27 and 29-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 52 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to Request for Continuation Examination (RCE) filed May 4, 2007. Claims 1-15, 17, 24-27, 29-37 are presented for further examination.

Claims 38-60 are newly added and presented for initial examination.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 52 is objected to because of the following informalities: Examiner understands the word "begin" in the last limitation of the claim should be "being". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 52-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yano et al. (hereinafter "Yano", US Patent Publication 2006/0184546 A1).

As per claims 52-53, Yano discloses a system and method for suggesting data as a response to client requests, comprising:

a server configured to receive requests from a plurality of clients for content

(paragraphs [0035, 0045, 0061]);

an interface to a plurality of databases or data sources of content information coupled to said server (paragraphs [0037, 0042, 0045, 0058]);

a communication protocol that provides a session connection between a client and the server, and allows the client to send, as part of the same session, a plurality of queries to query the server for content, wherein each of the plurality of queries are consecutive and form an increasingly focused query string for retrieving content from the server, and wherein each subsequent one of the plurality of queries extends the query string by one or more additional characters (paragraphs [0032-0033, 0039, 0042]); and

wherein said server simultaneously applies the increasingly focused query string against the plurality of databases or data sources as it is begin extended, and suggests a set of increasingly appropriate content or search criteria from the plurality of databases, to the client, for further use by the client within the same session (paragraphs [0035, 0045, 0061]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1- 15, 17, 24-27, 29-51, 54-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yano et al. (hereinafter "Yano", US Patent Publication 2006/0184546 A1) in view of Gershman et al. (hereinafter "Gersh", US Patent 6,356,905 B1).

As per claims 1, 24, 29, 32-33, Yano discloses a system, user interface mechanism, and method of providing session-based retrieval and at a client system of string-based content from a server comprising:

- A communication protocol that enables connection over a network between a client system and a server system, and allows the client system to send via the network, and within a single session between the client system and the server system, a lengthening string composed of a plurality of consecutively input characters, to query the server system for string-based content (paragraphs [0032-0033, 0039, 0042]);
- A client object, in communication with a client software at the client system and with the communication protocol, wherein the client object receives additional characters from the client software, and as consecutive characters are being received, transmits via the network to a server object at the server system a plurality of consecutive queries, within the same session, to retrieve content from the server system, wherein each consecutive lengthens the query string by additional

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characters, to form a lengthening string for retrieving matching content from the server system (paragraphs [0053, 0077, 0093, 0117]);

- A server object, in communication with the server system, and with the client object via the communication protocol, wherein the server object in response to receiving the consecutive queries that form the lengthening string, automatically uses the lengthening string to query and retrieve content information from the server system that matches the lengthening string, and wherein the server object returns, while the additional characters are being input and the string is being lengthened during the session, increasingly matching content information to the client object for immediate use by the client system (paragraphs [0035, 0045, 0061]).

Yano does not explicitly disclose:

- A communication protocol that enables an asynchronous session based connection between a client system and a server system;
- Asynchronously returns increasingly relevant content information to the client object for immediate use by the client system;
- receiving an asynchronous response from the server as the characters are being input.

However, like Yano, Gersh teaches users transmitting queries to a Web server to find information from various Web suppliers. Asynchronous messaging is provided between the client (user) and server (Web server) (column 48, lines 14-17, 40-53).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate or implement Gersh's asynchronous session

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and asynchronously returning relevant content in Yano's system providing updates to the client such as content and database replication.

As per claim 2, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said client object operates on or at a first computer and said server object operates on or at a second computer and wherein both of said first and said second computers are connected via a network protocol (paragraphs [0033-0035]).

As per claim 3, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said server object and said client object runs on the same computer (paragraph [0037]).

As per claim 4, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said server object runs on a plurality of separate computers, and wherein said client queries received during the session are distributed over said separate computers (paragraph [0070]).

As per claim 5, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said server object stores previously received strings and returns said stored strings to the client in response to new client queries received during the session, without accessing said content (paragraph [0042, 0058]).

As per claim 6, Yano further discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said client software is embedded into a software application that provides a visual interface to an

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operator that the server object is currently using the lengthening query string against the content of the server system to query and retrieve content information from the server system and allows the operator to add additional characters to lengthen the query string, while simultaneously receiving increasingly matching results from the server (paragraph [0053, 0065, 0077]).

As per claim 7, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said client software is used as a content engine for another software system (paragraph [0057]).

As per claim 8, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said client software accumulates a plurality of said single character queries as they are entered into the client, before sending them together as a single query string to said server (paragraph [0057]).

As per claim 9, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said client software stores previously received responses from the server in a cache at the client and uses the previously received responses as the response to a new query by the user, without reassessing the server (paragraph [0065]).

As per claim 10, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said client software stores a pre-defined string and automatically transmits it to the server as the

client software is first accessed, and wherein additional entry of query characters is not required before server responses are sent to the client (paragraph [0075, 0093]).

As per claim 11, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein said server stores the state of query and response of the client software, and restores the state of the client software after any interruption in said communication protocol (paragraph [0084]).

As per claim 12, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 where said client software adds a qualifier to the query that is passed to the server, whereby the server can use said qualifier to execute the query and return appropriate results based on both the query string and its qualifier (paragraph [0069]).

As per claim 13, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 where said client software identifies a user of the system to the server whereby the server can store statistics and provides a history of queries and corresponding responses appropriate to said user (paragraph [0125, 0141]).

As per claim 14, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 where said server system comprises a server tier and a syndication tier, and wherein said client software communicates to the server tier on a single computer, and wherein each query is forwarded by the server tier and the syndication tier to an appropriate syndicate of

content channels connected to the server tier on a different computer (paragraph [0137]).

As per claim 15, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 where said server applies a content dependent pattern and filter to characters received from the client before queries are matched against the content (paragraph [0050, 0065]).

As per claim 17, Yano further discloses the system of claim 1 where server responses comprise lists of strings, wherein each string is accompanied by corresponding metadata, whereby the metadata contains logical links to other data sources of Uniform Resource Identifiers (paragraph [0088]).

As per claim 25, Yano discloses the mechanism of claim 24, wherein said user interface element is an application input field (paragraph [0073]).

As per claim 26, Yano discloses the mechanism of claim 24, wherein said session indicator displays a triangular display element to indicate the presence of said session, and does not display said triangular display element to indicate the absence of said session (paragraph [0077]).

As per claim 27, Yano discloses the mechanism of claim 24, wherein said status indicator displays one, or a plurality of arrow display elements to indicate the transfer of

data from said client application to said server during said session, and the presence of available session-specific content at said server (paragraph [0095]).

As per claim 30, Yano discloses the method of claim 29 wherein the server object matches each query received from the client against an in-memory cache, and returns cached content to the client without accessing said content engine, unless the cached content has expired since it was last received from said content engine (paragraph [0105]).

As per claim 31, Yano discloses the method of claim 29, wherein the server analyzes the time between said consecutive queries received from each client system, and skips selected ones of said consecutive queries to reduce network communications and the load on said content engine (paragraph [0075]).

As per claim 34, Yano discloses the system of claim 1, whereby the client object indicates the selection of the content sources to be queried to the server when said session is initiated and when content source selection changes are needed thereafter, without needing to embed said content source selection with each of said consecutive string-based queries (paragraph [0095]).

As per claim 35, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 whereby said session is shared by multiple client objects that exchange messages with the same server

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system, whereby each client object identifies a different content source selection to which said consecutive queries from the individual client object will be mapped by its corresponding server object (paragraph [0135]).

As per claims 36-37, Yano discloses a system and method for providing session-based searching of string-based content from a server, comprising:

- a user interface at a plurality of clients that allows a user at each of the plurality of clients to enter a string of consecutively input queries to query the server for string-based content, wherein each consecutive query lengthens the query string by one or more additional characters (paragraphs [0053, 0077, 0093, 0117]);
- a communication protocol that transmits over a network, via a client object at each said client, to a server object at the server, the plurality of consecutive queries, to retrieve content from the server, wherein each additional character is immediately transmitted to the server object as the user is entering the additional characters in the user interface, to form an lengthening query string for retrieving content from the server (paragraphs [0032-0033, 0039, 0042]);
- a server object which in response to receiving each query as it is being lengthened or shortened by the one or more additional characters, automatically matches the lengthening query string against the content of the server, and, as the user of a particular client is entering queries, modifies the user interface by returning increasingly relevant server content information to the client object for immediate display to the user (paragraphs [0035, 0045, 0061]).

Yano does not explicitly disclose:

- A communication protocol that enables an asynchronous session based connection between a client system and a server system;
- Asynchronously returns increasingly relevant content information to the client object for immediate use by the client system.

However, like Yano, Gersh teaches users transmitting queries to a Web server to find information from various Web suppliers. Asynchronous messaging is provided between the client (user) and server (Web server) (column 48, lines 14-17, 40-53).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate or implement Gersh's asynchronous session and asynchronously returning relevant content in Yano's system providing updates to the client such as content and database replication.

As per claim 38, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein the client software is used to one of display suggestions, perform auto-completion, or provide type-ahead functionality, based on matching string-based data queried in a database by the server object on the server system (paragraph [0058]).

As per claim 39, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein the client software one of validates or checks the input string based on responses received from the server object on the server system (paragraph [0065-00696]).

As per claim 40, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein the lengthening query string is one of a part of a name, email address, URL, phone number, or other typed string that can be normalized as a simple term, definitional term, relational term, quote, simple number, compound number, date, URL, e-mail address, phone number, or XML formatted data corresponding to a DTD or schema (paragraph [0076, 0095]).

As per claim 41, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein the matching content returned by the server object contains one of a term from a thesaurus system, result received from a search and retrieval system, text from a reference work, match from an address book, appropriate instructions or actions to be taken received from a control system, entry from a dictionary, thesaurus, or encyclopedia, match from a commercial products database, quote from a literary quotes library, real-time stock quote, content from a real-time news service, Internet advertisement, result of a complex function, translation received from a language translation engine, entry from a classification scheme, match from a lookup list such as cities or countries in an order form, match from a auto-complete history or a language code, creation date, modification date, pronunciation, meaning, possible use, synonym, reference, scope note, notation, source, UDC coding, description, product code, category, price, currency, stock symbol, company name, stock quote, machine instruction or a city or a country ([0069, 0125]).

As per claim 42, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein the server object retrieves the matching string-based data from an in-memory cache of responses to previous queries (paragraph [0068, 0076]).

As per claim 43, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein the server object, in communication with a content access module object, retrieves matching content from multiple content engines, and wherein the server object embeds the query string into a native query for each type of content engine (paragraph [0069, 0081]).

As per claim 44, Yano discloses the system of claim 43 wherein the content engine is a SQL database or a search engine (paragraph [0057, 0090]).

As per claim 45, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein the client software displays arrow symbols to indicate the availability or lack of matching results (paragraph [0076]).

As per claim 46, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein the client software displays a checkmark symbol if only one match was found for the query string (paragraph [0118]).

As per claim 47, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein a plurality of client objects are logically linked to multiple content sources on the server system, so that

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results received and returned by each corresponding server object are the result of a match to both the lengthening query string and values contained by one or more of the other client objects (paragraph [0077, 0093]).

As per claim 48, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein the client software displays images and/or movies corresponding to individual matches received from the server system (paragraph [0069]).

As per claim 49, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein only a specific requested or expected range of matches are returned to the client object any one time (paragraph [0136]).

As per claim 50, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein the client software runs in a web browser (paragraph [0057]).

As per claim 51, Yano discloses the system of claim 1 wherein the client software displays a symbol inside of an input field to indicate the presence and availability of said system to text entered into said input field (paragraph [0065]).

As per claim 54, Yano discloses a system comprising:

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a client object on a client computer and a server object on a server computer, whereby the client computer and the server computer are linked by a network so that they can exchange information (0033-0036)];

wherein the client object is linked to an input element in a user interface that allows a user to enter textual information comprising characters and strings to create incremental user input comprising a mutating string of characters (paragraphs [0042, 0065]);

wherein said user input is transmitted by the client object to the server object while said user input is being formed by a specific user during a user session (paragraph [0045, 0048]);

wherein the server object uses said user input received from the client object to query data from one or more content sources, and to return result strings matching said user input from said server computer while the input is being formed on the client computer; and wherein the client object displays said results in a display element in the user interface on the client computer (paragraphs [0035, 0045, 0061]).

Yano does not explicitly disclose:

- A communication protocol that enables an asynchronous session based connection between a client system and a server system;
- Asynchronously returns increasingly relevant content information to the client object for immediate use by the client system.

However, like Yano, Gersh teaches users transmitting queries to a Web server to find information from various Web suppliers. Asynchronous messaging is provided between the client (user) and server (Web server) (column 48, lines 14-17, 40-53).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate or implement Gersh's asynchronous session and asynchronously returning relevant content in Yano's system providing updates to the client such as content and database replication.

As per claim 55, Yano discloses the system of claim 54 whereby said client object is embedded in an object that is part of a web page and appears in a web browser on the client computer (paragraph [0041, 0050]).

As per claim 56, Yano discloses the system of claim 54 whereby each of said matching result strings is accompanied by a key that identifies each result as it was retrieved from the one or more content sources, whereby the key of selected results can be used for sorting and merging and sorting in the server computer and are transmitted back to the client object for use on the client system (paragraph [0060, 0065]).

As per claim 57, Yano discloses the system of claim 54 whereby the client object accumulates the user input for an amount of time before sending the resulting string of

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characters to the server object as a single consolidated query string, to decrease network traffic and decrease the load on the server computer (paragraph [0042, 0048]).

As per claim 58, Yano discloses the system of claim 57 whereby the input element on the client computer contains a visual object displayed within the display element that indicates to the user that user input was sent to the server object whereby the visual object keeps changing while matching results are being awaited from the server system, and whereby said visual object first changes when the user enters textual information, and before the user input is sent to the server, indicating to the user that the user input is being accumulated by the client object before sending it to the server object (paragraph [0152]).

As per claim 59, Yano discloses the system of claim 54 whereby the server object provides one or more content channels for retrieving configurable sets of data available on the server computer, whereby each content channel defines a logical data set to be retrieved from the one or more data sources (paragraph [0090, 0131]).

As per claim 60, Yano discloses the system of claim 54 whereby the server object caches the result data received from said content sources and uses said cached result

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data as a response to later client requests originating from the same client object or from a different client object (paragraph [0102, 0127]).

Response to Arguments

(d) Applicant's argument has been considered but is moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara N Burgess whose telephone number is (703) 305-3366. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (703) 308-7562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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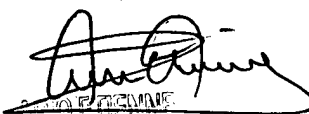
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Barbara N Burgess Examiner

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February 19, 2008


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